GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3933
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2001
GAS DEPOSITS IN WEST BENGAL
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in North Malda region and in Raiganj, Karandighi, Goalpukhur of Uttar Dinajpur district, there are reports of gas deposits which require to be exploited by O.N.G.C. after having a comprehensive survey in these areas; and

(b) if so, the steps, the Government propose to take to explore gas deposits in these areas?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar)

(a) & (b): Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has not established any gas reserves in the State of West Bengal so far. In the district of Uttar Dinajpur, ONGC has drilled two wells, viz. Karandighi-1 and Lahil-1.These wells proved to be dry and were abandoned. No well has been drilled in Malda District. For exploration of hydrocarbons, Government had earlier offered 2 blocks in VIth, VIIth and VIIIth round of exploratory bidding and one block in New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)-II round, covering parts of Malda and Uttar Dinajpur districts of West Bengal. However, no bid was received for any of these offered blocks.